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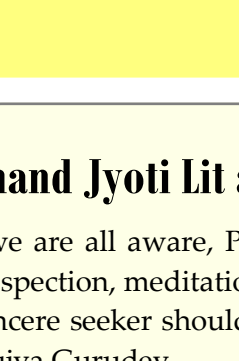
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LOS ANGELES
Vedanta, Wisdom, Spiritual Growth

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Over Thirty Years Of Service To Humanity



Upcoming Events

BV Session Year 2015-2016 commences	Sep 13	9:00 am - 10:30 am 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations	Sep 13	9:00 am - 9:45 am 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm
Valmiki Ramayana by Swami Ishwarananda	Sep 14-18	6:30 am - 7:30 am 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Just for Seniors - For ages 55+	Sep 17	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Kalanjali: Soothing Strings	Sep 26	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Bhagavad Gita Discourse Series by Swami Ishwarananda	Every Sunday	9:00 am - 10:15 am 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm
Fundamentals of Vedanta Lectures by Acharya Mahadevan	Every Sunday	9:00 am - 10:15 am 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm
Guided Vedic Chanting by Swami Ishwarananda	Every Saturday	6:30 am - 7:30 am
** Save The Date ** Sevanjali 2015: Shruti Layam <i>Semi-classical music by Padma Bhushan K. J. Yesudas</i> Buy Tickets Online	Nov 1	4 pm
** Save The Date ** World Leadership Dialogue Chinmaya Vibhooti, Pune, India	Dec 10-13	

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Thus Spake The Master

If you treat a given event as a situation, it is just a situation to be dealt with. Keeping your mind calm, don't let the situation grow into a problem -- and then develop further into a crisis!

- Swami Chinmayananda

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Words Of The Wise

Many things happen in life, over which we have no control. We have to face life as it comes and respond to things, beings and situations every moment. The trick lies in how we respond to a given situation. Vedanta teaches us how to look at the situation and deal with it in a positive way. It is just a question of adjusting your vision, and then you will see that your whole life is different. Life is the same; people are the same; everything is the same; yet everything is not the same, because your vision has changed.

- Swami Tejomayananda

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THINK!

In the game of Golf, the target is far away, almost unseen, signposted with a distant fluttering flag. What is known is the ball that is within one's reach that needs to be sent closer, if not into the hole. The whole attention of the player is expected to be on the ball, putting forth the required effort to direct the ball towards the target with minimum number of strokes. In the same way, for a spiritual seeker the goal is state of infinite happiness, which is presently signposted with a religious symbol. What is known and available is one's own mind which needs to be directed toward the goal of infinite happiness, with minimum exertion in meditation!

- Swami Ishwarananda

for e-Satsang blog, click [here](#)

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Akhand Jyoti Lit at Rameshwaram on Sadhana Day

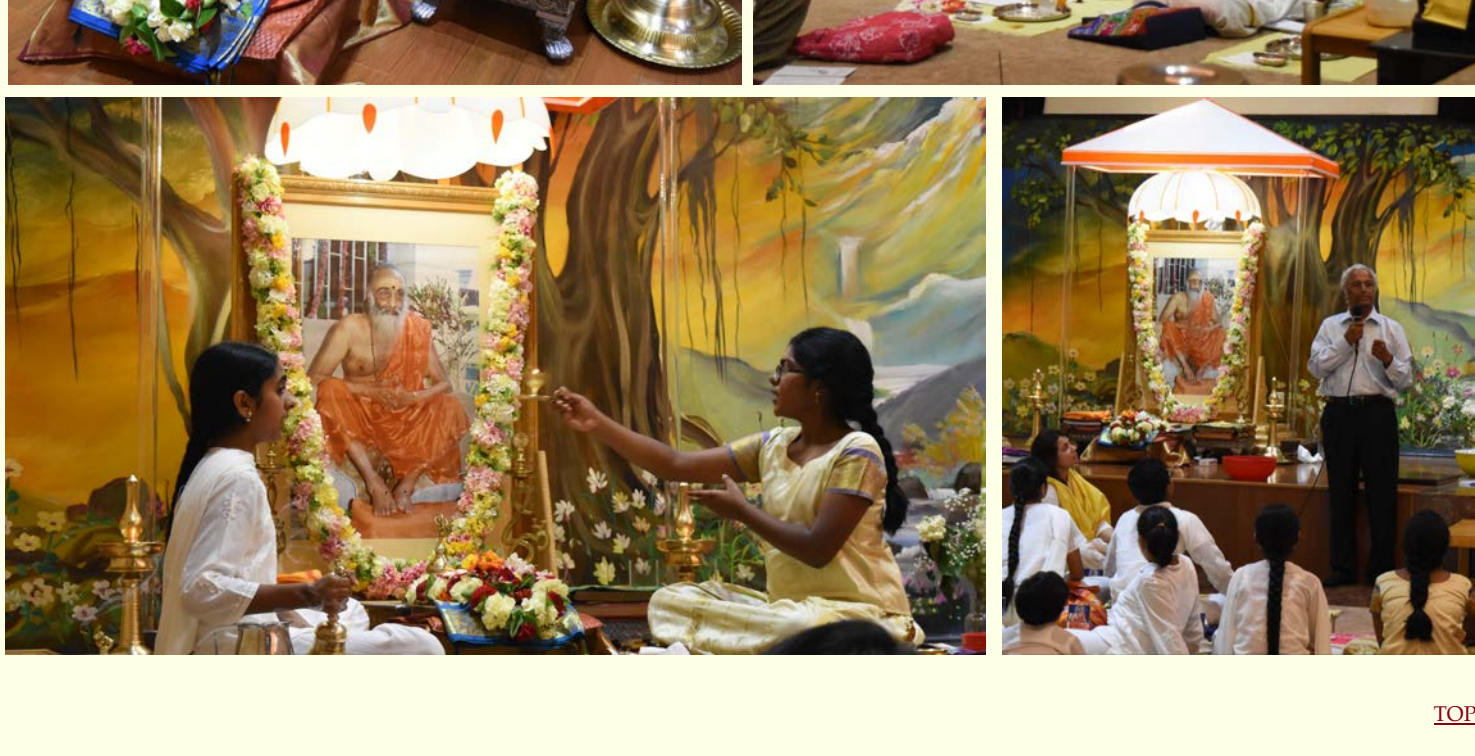
As we are all aware, Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda's Mahasamadhi day - Aug 3 - should be one of introspection, meditation and other spiritual practices that keep us in communion with the Reality of the Master. A sincere seeker should spend the day in introspection, meditation, japa and spiritual reading in remembrance of Pujya Gurudev.

Swami Ishwarananda explained that just as in our tradition we observe vratas on auspicious days like Shivaratri and Janmashtami, similarly, this day of Sadhana, should be observed collectively or individually, with commitment and intensity. Accordingly, while he himself was at the annual Mahasamadhi camp led by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda in New Jersey, he asked CMLA members to observe Sadhana day with prayer and rededicated themselves to the teachings of Gurudev.

Several joined in to together chant chapters 2 and 15 of the Bhagavad Gita and then in gratitude to the master, performed the Guru Paduka Puja led by 17 children. President of CMLA, Dr.D.V.Pillai distributed prasad in the form of books to the children and spoke of the spiritual force Gurudev was and continues to remain.

To commemorate the birth centennial year (1916-2016) of Gurudev, an "Akhand Jyoti" was lit. Dr.Iyer was given the honor of lighting this lamp, which will stay lit at the altar in Chinmaya Rameshwaram for a whole year, till Aug. 3, 2016.

The congregation then participated in the Shiva puja and arati which was followed by prasad.



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Devotees Chant the Glory of the Guru

On Jul 31, Guru Purnima was celebrated as a peaceful and simple event with a small group of devotees gathering to chant the Tapovan Shatakam, Guru Stotram, Guru Paduka Stotram and the Hindi rendition of Guru Stotram written by Pujya Guruji. The group took joy in making this simple offering to their Guru.

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CIF Strives to Create Partnerships in SoCal

CIF is the research wing of Chinmaya Mission where the study and dissemination of knowledge in the areas of Indian philosophy, culture, art, science both modern and ancient is done. With its very recent elevation as the Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth, which will begin courses 2016-2017, the university will be dedicated to the ancient wisdom enshrined in the Indian knowledge traditions.

In a presentation which clearly showed the magnitude of the work that has been undertaken by the institution located in Kerala on the premises of the birthplace of Parama Guru Adi Sankara, the Projects Coordinator of Chinmaya International Foundation, Manisha Makhecha during her visit to CMLA on Aug 8 to Aug 13 sought to make the membership aware of activities undertaken there.

With examples that struck home, she explained how, for instance, they were always on a quest to find old and ancient manuscripts related to Indian thought and the challenges they face once they do get it. She cited the instance of acquiring documentation written in the Sarada script but having to launch a wider and more intense search to find scholars who could plumb the depths of what it contained.

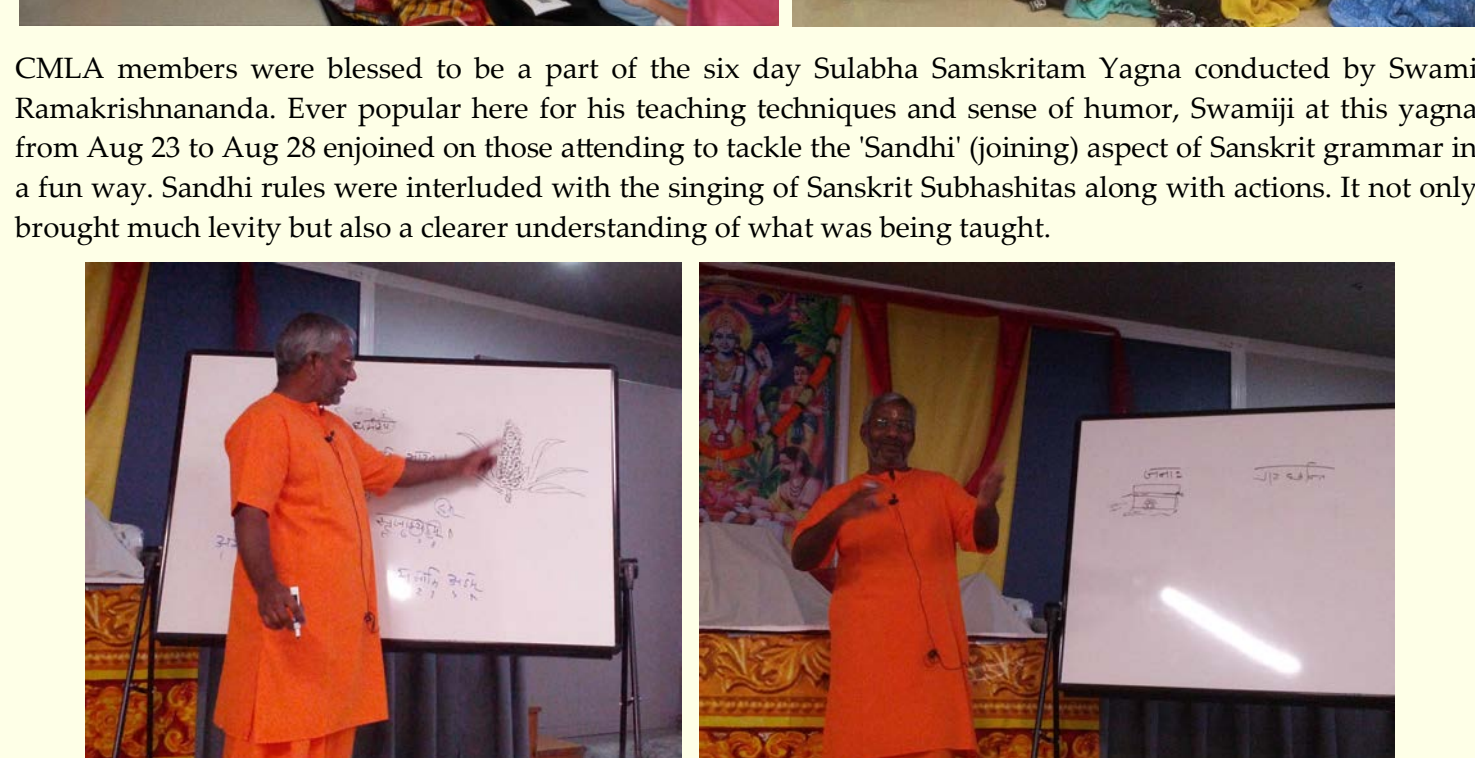
Several active members of the Indian-American community with interests in academia and Indian philosophy met with Manisha Makhecha to explore what partnerships could be established with CIF and the upcoming university.

Makhecha also met with CHYK to advise them on matters related to the conduct of study group.

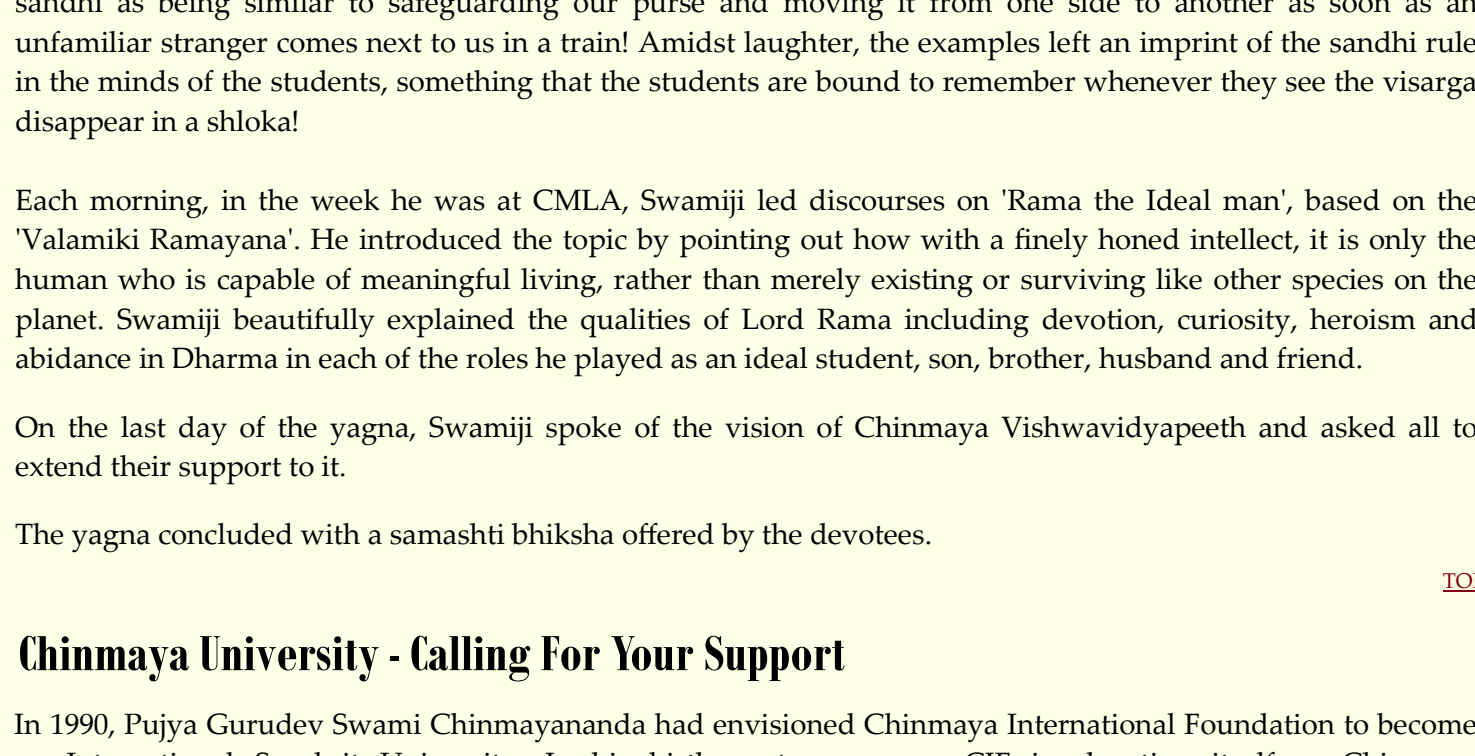


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Swami Ramakrishnananda Explores 'Sandhi' With Sanskrit Enthusiasts



CMLA members were blessed to be a part of the six day Sulabha Samskritam Yagna conducted by Swami Ramakrishnananda. Ever popular here for his teaching techniques and sense of humor, Swamiji at this yagna from Aug 23 to Aug 28 enjoined on those attending to tackle the 'Sandhi' (joining) aspect of Sanskrit grammar in a fun way. Sandhi rules were interluded with the singing of Sanskrit Subhashitas along with actions. It not only brought much levity but also a clearer understanding of what was being taught.



In his usual inimitable style of making the student easily cross over the mental hurdle of perceiving Sanskrit as a daunting language, Swamiji compared identifying sandhis in shlokas as easy as biting into corn just with a little practice! Among many other instances of using visual aids, he explained the disappearance of visarga in lopa sandhi as being similar to losing our purse and moving it from one side to another as soon as an unfamiliar stranger comes next to us in a train! Amidst laughter, the examples left an imprint of the sandhi rule in the minds of the students, something that the students are bound to remember whenever they see the visarga disappear in a shloka!

Each morning, in the week he was at CMLA, Swamiji led discourses on 'Rama the Ideal man', based on the 'Valmiki Ramayana'. He introduced the topic by pointing out how with a finely honed intellect, it is only the human who is capable of meaningful living, rather than merely existing or surviving like other species on the planet. Swamiji beautifully explained the qualities of Lord Rama including devotion, curiosity, heroism and abundance in Dharma in each of the roles he played as an ideal student, son, brother, husband and friend.

On the last day of the yagna, Swamiji spoke of the vision of Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth and asked all to extend their support to it.

The yagna concluded with a samashti bhiksha offered by the devotees.

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Chinmaya University - Calling For Your Support

In 1990, Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda had envisioned Chinmaya International Foundation to become an International Sanskrit University. In his birth centenary year, CIF is elevating itself as Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth, a University dedicated to the ancient wisdom enshrined in the Indian knowledge traditions, with the main campus at CIF, Ernakulam and a sub-campus at Chinmaya Naada Bindu, Kolwan.

A deemed university in the fields of Sanskrit, Indic wisdom and Performing Arts, the Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth aims to address the needs of current day education, management and society. To begin with, Vedanta, philosophy, religious studies, yoga, classical music, Bharatnatyam and Indian theater are some of the courses that will be offered in the University.

The university is slated to commence in the academic year 2016-17 and requires a corpus fund of Rs. 25 crores to meet government requirements. Every donation offered by you for the Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth will go a long way to build the corpus fund.

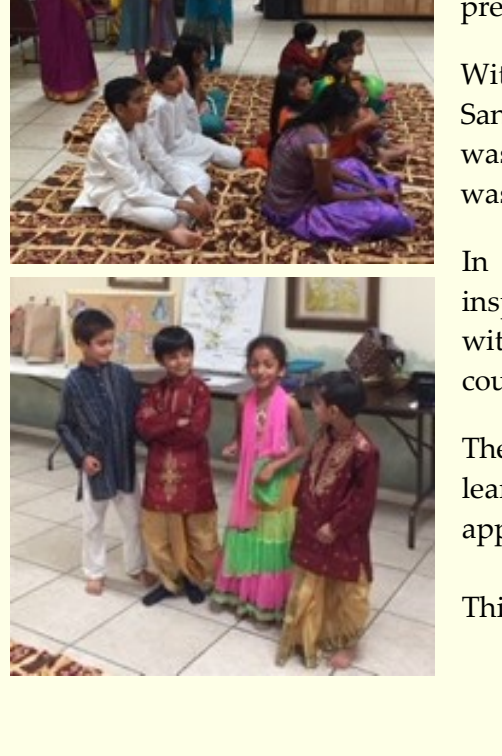
In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna states that even a leaf offered with love is dear to Him. Unto this noble cause, as Guru Dakshina, let us contribute with all our might and thus create a richer future for generations to come!

Please make donation checks payable to 'CMLA' and write 'Chinmaya University' in the memo section. All donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, visit the [CIF website](#).

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At Lancaster Temple, Mahadevanji Provides a Roadmap to Liberation



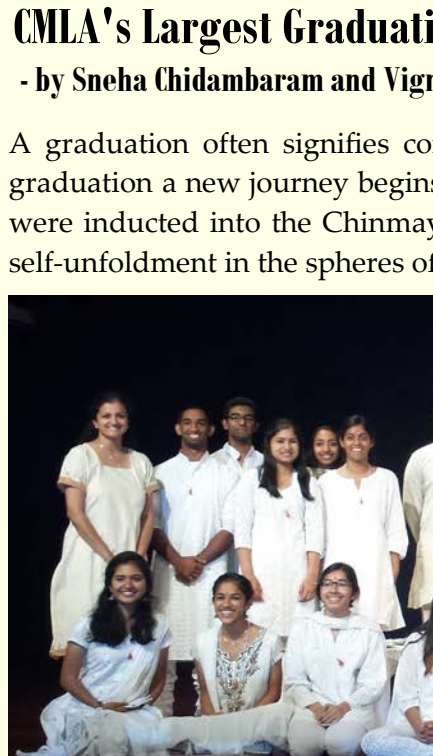
Acharya Mahadevanji, gave a captivating and inspiring discourse on "Gateway to Liberation" on June 6, at the newly opened Maha Vishnu Hindu Temple of Antelope Valley in Lancaster.

Having defined bondage as the firm grip of the Vasanas to the objects of the world and liberation as the exhaustion of Vasanas, he then proceeded to masterfully outline the goal of life as liberation, with numerous melodious quotations from several texts.

In his lively discourse he said, vasanas are of two types - good and bad. Our initial goal is to convert inauspicious vasanas to auspicious vasanas by a process of viveka, self-inquiry and meditation and eventually burn off our all vasanas. We burn the bridges of samsara with vairagya and unwavering faith in truth as we tread the narrow path of liberation. The gatekeepers to liberation are the guardian angels (virtues) that we have to acquire to enter the portals of liberation. They are: contentment, satsang, quietude of mind, inquiry into one's nature. It is through self-inquiry, that is probing the innermost nature in us, that self-realization is attained.

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Antelope Valley BV Grads Enjoy Cosy, Divine Event



Antelope Valley Bala Vihar marked the culmination of yet another beautiful year of learning with a graduation ceremony, held on June 5. Acharya Mahadevanji and Viji Mahadevan presided and blessed the kids and adults present.

With the chanting of the same shlokas as were prominently chanted when Adi Sankara graduated hundreds of years ago, the ceremonial torch of knowledge was passed down from the Acharya to the youngest kids. The atmosphere was divine and inspiring.

In his talk, Mahadevanji elaborated upon the acronym, 'SUCCESS'. He inspired even the youngest ones to participate, as they raised their hands with enthusiasm, eager to answer the questions that he asked during the course of his lecture.

The kids also presented to the assembly a brief synopsis of all they had learned in the past year. The efforts of teachers and volunteers were aptly appreciated with tokens of love and gratitude.

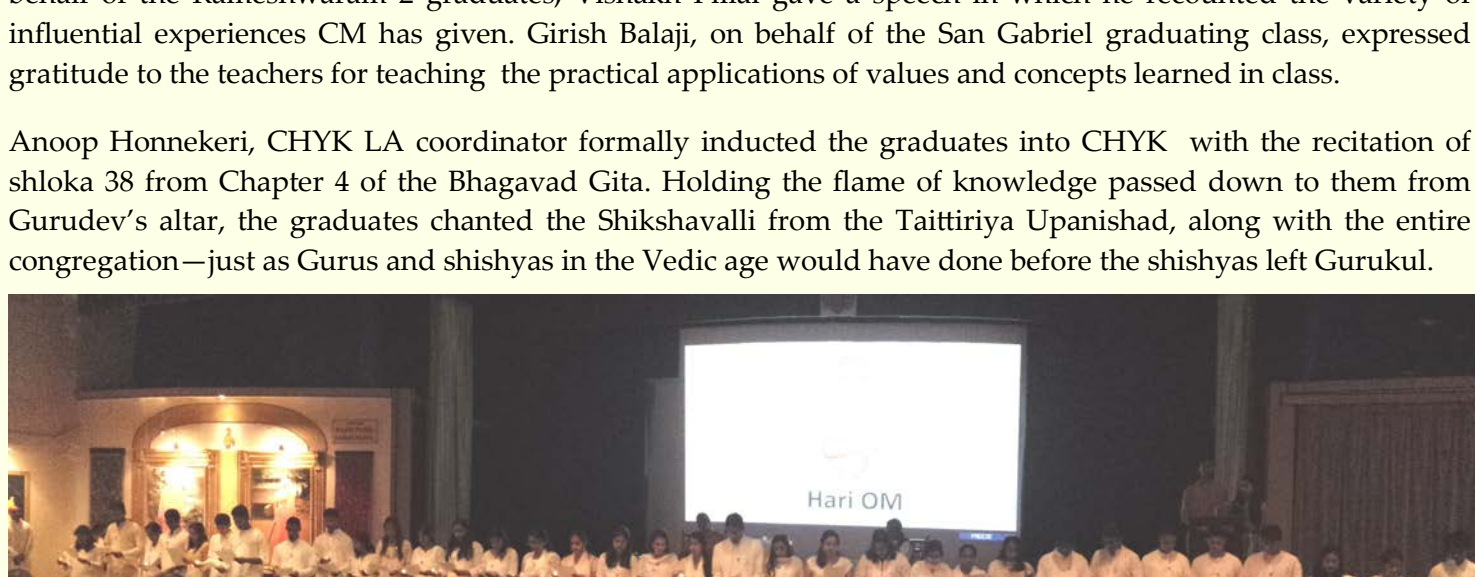
This was followed by a sumptuous pot luck dinner.

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CMLA's Largest Graduating Class Inducted Into CHYK

- by Sneha Chidambaram and Vignesh Sadras

A graduation often signifies completion of a specific course of study, but at Chinmaya Mission, with each graduation a new journey begins - one of self-inquiry and spiritual growth. On June 15, 2015, over 45 students were inducted into the Chinmaya Yuva Kendra (CHYK), the next stage for balavihar students to pursue their self-unfoldment in the spheres of university life and beyond.



Using the analogy of kite to signify the beginning of this new quest, Swami Ishwarananda exclaimed to the CMLA graduates, "And now, the kite string is in your hands!" Acharya Mahadevanji, with his engaging anecdotes and charismatic style, addressed the graduates.

Each member of the class of 2015, the largest graduating class CMLA has seen so far, was introduced with their favorite quote and most memorable balavihar experience. Swamiji and Mahadevanji also presented each graduate with a shastika mala, and a copy of Pujya Gurudev's Logic of Spirituality, to aid each student's future sadhana.

The graduating students of Rameshwaram 1 presented a video that discussed the importance of satsang. On behalf of the Rameshwaram 2 graduates, Vishakh Pillai gave a speech in which he recounted the variety of influential experiences CM has given. Girish Balaji, on behalf of the San Gabriel graduating class, expressed gratitude to the teachers for teaching the practical applications of values and concepts learned in class.

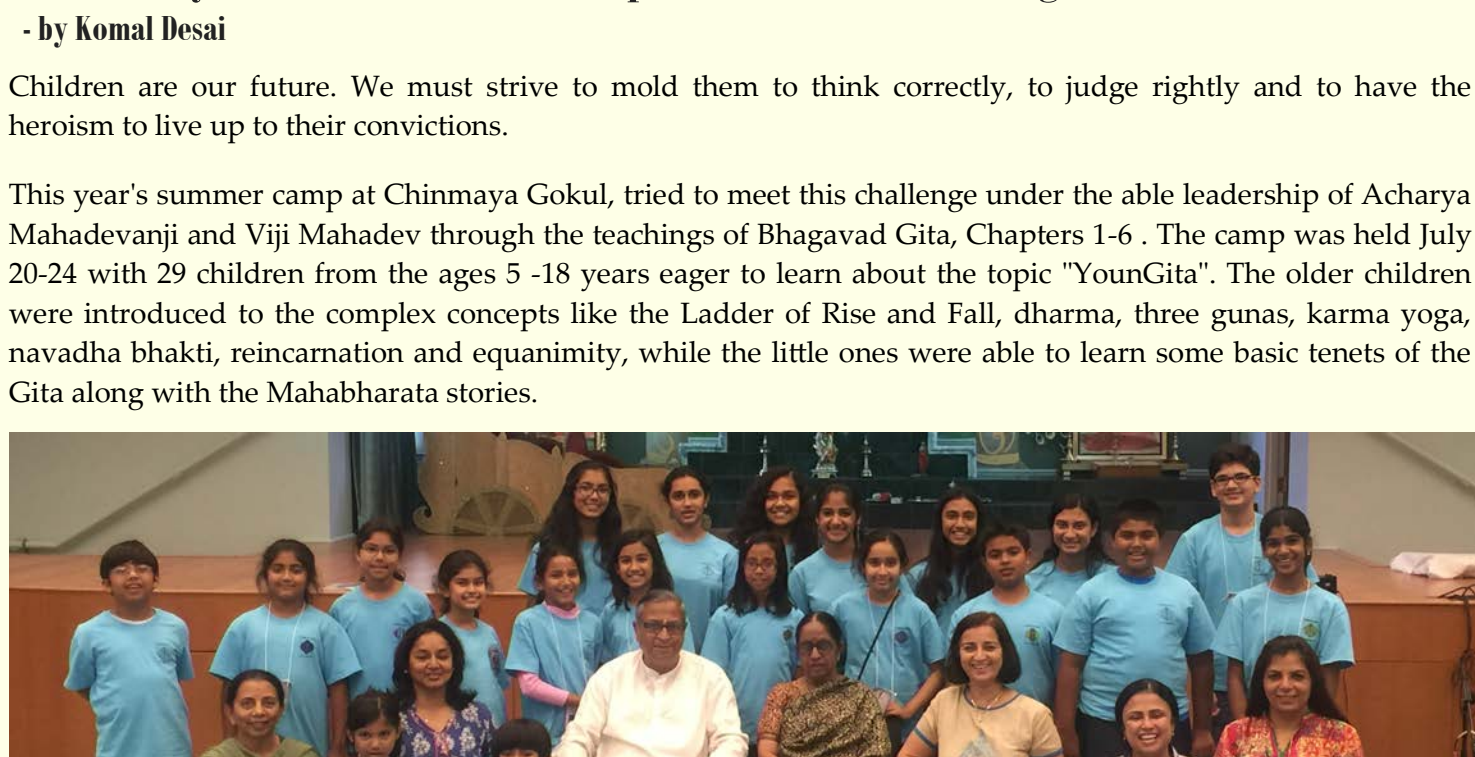
Anoop Honnekeri, CHYK LA coordinator formally inducted the graduates into CHYK with the recitation of shloka 38 from Chapter 4 of the Bhagavad Gita. Holding the flame of knowledge passed down to them from Gurudev's altar, the graduates chanted the Shikshavalli from the Taittiriya Upanishad, along with the entire congregation - just as Gurus and shishyas in the Vedic age would have done before the shishyas left Gurukul.



As we saw the graduating class standing in front of us with the jyotis, we were humbled. Whether it was the Santaana Seniors program, giving back through CORD trips, or helping around the Mission, seeing their dedication to carry Gurudev's vision further through seva inspired us. When we heard their Balavihar reflections, we were reminded that no matter what we are going through in life, or where we may be, the knowledge we have gained with the grace of all our gurus will always be with us. We wish our newest CHYKs the very best for the new beginnings of their secular and spiritual journeys!

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Glimpses from Graduation Day, San Gabriel BV



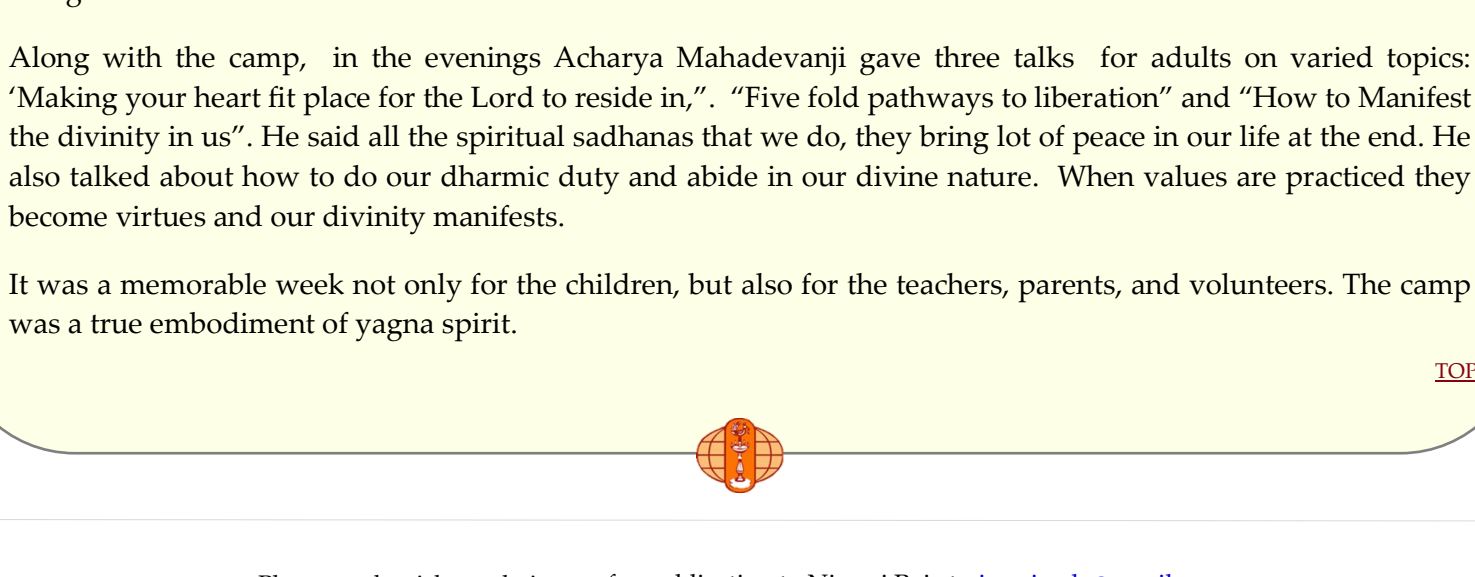
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At Chinmaya Gokul, Children's Camp is Filled With Learning and Fun

- by Komal Desai

Children are our future. We must strive to mold them to think correctly, to judge rightly and to have the heroism to live up to their convictions.

This year's summer camp at Chinmaya Gokul, tried to meet this challenge under the able leadership of Acharya Mahadevanji and Viji Mahadev through the teachings of Bhagavad Gita, Chapters 1-6. The camp was held July 20-24 with 29 children from the ages 5 -18 years eager to learn about the topic "YounGita". The older children were introduced to the complex concepts like the Ladder of Rise and Fall, dharma, three gunas, karma yoga, navadha bhakti, reincarnation and equanimity, while the little ones were able to learn some basic tenets of the Gita along with the Mahabharata stories.



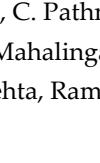
The teaching sessions were followed by yoga, bhajans, crafts and games. The kids made their "True ID" badge, thank you cards to God, colored camp t-shirts and made wall hangings. In the games that provided a release of energy for the kids, the Dog and the Bone game which was renamed "Krishna stealing butter" was a hit. There were other special events like extempore speech and Krishna Puja, and not to forget all time favorite Fun Day which was an afternoon filled with games like pin the jewel on Krishna's crown, a water slide, popcorn, and snow cones.

On the last day children played Jeopardy, which was a fun way of reviewing and testing what they had learned at the camp. Mahadevanji's talent as music conductor was discovered when the campers presented five songs with various instrumental accompaniments like violin, flute, clarinet and harmonium. Everyone was sure that after hearing "Sing Along, Sing along, Krishna's Divine Song, " they could never listen to Jingle Bells with a straight face!

Along with the camp, in the evenings Acharya Mahadevanji gave three talks for adults on varied topics: "Making your heart fit place for the Lord to reside in," "Five fold pathways to liberation" and "How to Manifest the divinity in us". He said all the spiritual sadhanas that we do, they bring lot of peace in our life at the end. He also talked about how to do our dharmic duty and abide in our divine nature. When values are practiced they become virtues and our divinity manifests.

It was a memorable week not only for the children, but also for the teachers, parents, and volunteers. The camp was a true embodiment of yagna spirit.

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